

Remarks

Claims 31-54 were pending in the above-identified application. By way of the present amendment, Applicants have amended claims 31, 33, 50, 52, and 54 as set forth herein, and have cancelled claims 32, 35, 36, 43-49, and 51. Accordingly, claims 31, 33, 34, 37-42, 50, and 52-54 are now pending and under examination. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks provided herein.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 47 and 54 as being indefinite. Applicants have cancelled claim 47, and have amended claim 54 to refer to claim 52, rather than cancelled claim 22. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph for indefiniteness be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 32-34, 37-42, 52, and 53 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and further rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph. Applicants have amended claim 31 to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 32. Please note that while claim 31 does not include claim 32 verbatim, Applicants have merely revised the language originally present in claim 32 to account for what appeared to be translation errors, and have not altered the meaning or scope of the claim. Applicants have amended claim 50 to incorporate claim 52, and have redrafted the claim as an independent claim by incorporating claim 31. Applicants have also amended claim 52 to incorporate claim 51, and have also amended this claim to be independent as a result of incorporating claim 31. All of the remaining non-cancelled claims depend from claim 31, 50, or 52, which should be allowable based on Applicants amending the claims as indicated by the Examiner to recite allowable

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION
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subject matter.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application. If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-0172.

Respectfully submitted,

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